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• It is also believed that the CIA, possibly in concert with the U.S. army's Special Forces, was involved in orchestrating the 1961 assassination of the Dominican Republic's dictator, Rafael Leonidas Trujillo. The assassination was carried out by a group of Dominicans on a lonely road out-

side the City of Santo Domingo, but it is virtually certain that the CIA was fully informed of the operation and may even have supplied "technical assistance" (rifles) to the Dominicans, according to an intelligence source. Interestingly, the first word of Trujillo's assassination came in a White House announcement while President Kennedy was visiting Paris, which suggests astoundingly rapid reports from the U.S. representatives on the spot.

Penthouse investigations also brought out the following new material concerning abortive CIA assassination plots abroad:

• In the late 1950s, senior CIA officials in Asia proposed the assassination of Indonesia's President Sukarno as part of a broader plot to overthrow his left-leaning government. At least one American pilot, employed by the CIA, was captured by Sukarno's forces during the coup attempt. To kill Sukarno, the CIA, according to intelligence sources, planned to fire a shell from a ceremonial 105-mm cannon in front of the presidential palace while Sukarno spoke from a balcony. This plan, however, was vetoed on the highest levels in Washington.

• In 1958, a plot was concocted to kill China's Premier Chou En-lai during a visit to Rangoon, Burma. This was at the beginning of the Soviet-Chinese split, and apparently the CIA reasoned that Chou's death would aggravate the developing split. The notion was that Chou was a moderate and thus posed an obstacle to a possible Soviet-Chinese

Furthermore, intelligence sources said, the CIA planned, by the dissemination of "disinformation" through intelligence channels, to lead the Chinese

continues

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HOW AMERICA AND COMRADES SUBVERSION AND ASSASSINATION ABROAD

MURDER BY PROXY

BY TAD SZULC

Political assassination is so repulsive to Americans that for years we have considered only the men of Hitler and Nazism capable of murdering the CIA—and therefore the United States—powerful enemies and accused of plots to murder foreign leaders. And the agency may be greatly affected by the outcome of current investigations of such charges.

In all fairness to the CIA there is no proof thus far that CIA agents have themselves committed assassinations abroad. Former CIA Director Richard M. Helms made this point earlier this year when he said flatly, "I do not know of any foreign leader that was ever assassinated by the CIA." But Helms' statement, frankly, should be a Washington newsman's question to him: Was it more that a handful of CIA officials, Helms, lost his cool, used the occasion to shoot at CBS' Daniel Schorr, son of a bitch, and killed, and to apply one of the ill-fated sexual techniques to Schorr?

Though it is probably true that no American CIA official ever actually murdered a foreign leader, there is plentiful material to suggest that foreign nationals employed by the CIA have attempted to assassinate, and sometimes succeeded in assassinating, key figures overseas on orders from Washington. The name of the game seems to be murder by proxy.

What is known at this juncture about CIA assassination plots?

• For one thing, they were the subject of the so-called "oral" report CIA Director William E. Colby presented to President Ford shortly after the scandal broke out last December over allegations that the agency had been involved in domestic spying. The content of this report is not publicly known, but key sources in the Rockefeller Commission and the Senate select committee investigating the CIA informed *Penthouse* that political assassination was one of the important areas of their secret inquiries. This may explain why Helms, wholly out of character, lost his composure before newsmen minutes after testifying before the Rockefeller Commission in April.

Senator Frank Church, the chairman of the Senate Select Investigating Committee on Intelligence, concluded after hearing testimony by Helms and other past and present agency officials that the CIA's formal denials of involvement in assassination plots "were correct but not complete." Church, however, spoke early in May, before his committee began its investigation.

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